United Nations A/C.2/60/SR.33

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 33rd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 2 December 2005, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Wali ..... (Nigeria)
*later*: Mr. Koudelka (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.*

**Agenda item 38: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.11/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources*

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.11/Rev.1 and said that Cuba should have been listed as a sponsor. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Brown** (Canada), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the promotion and protection of environmental integrity was critical to the social and economic viability of any State. Canada wished to see an end to the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict and a final peace settlement that was acceptable to both parties and ensured the well-being and prosperity of citizens on both sides. Referring to paragraph 6, she said that her delegation viewed the terms "character" and "status" as synonymous, since the term "character" had no known legal meaning under international humanitarian law, including customary international law.

3. Israel, as an occupying Power, must fulfil its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention). Any reference to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice must reflect its non-binding status and should not selectively quote from it without a balancing reference to Israel's security concerns.

4. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.11/Rev.1.*

*In favour*:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Australia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.11/Rev.1 was adopted by 151 votes to 7, with 9 abstentions.*

6. **Ms. Brooker** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey;

the stabilization and association process countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Iceland, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that they had voted in favour of the draft resolution because they believed that the natural resources of any territory seized by force of arms should not be used inappropriately or illegally by the occupying Power.

7. The European Union reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories and also the illegality of any infringement of the rights of the Palestinian people under the Convention. However, the issues covered in the draft resolution should be dealt with within the framework of the permanent status negotiations of the Middle East peace process. The European Union remained committed — in close cooperation with its partners in the Quartet and in the Arab world — to facilitating a final settlement. The draft resolution just adopted must not be seen as a prejudicing or pre-empting the outcome of negotiations; nor should there be any actions or statements to that effect. The European Union's position regarding the separation barrier and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the matter remained unchanged.

8. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) thanked the Committee for supporting an issue that was of vital importance to the Palestinian people. In adopting the draft resolution, the international community had reaffirmed its commitment to international law and the rights it guaranteed and demonstrated that no Member State was above international law or could be held to standards other than those established in international law and its related conventions.

**Agenda item 50: Macroeconomic policy questions** (*continued*)

**(a) International trade and development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.36)

*Draft resolution on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries*

9. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.36 had no programme budget implications.

10. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.36 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it dealt with a matter of particular concern, on which the international community should be ready to take very firm action. She trusted that the Committee would give its full support to the draft resolution.

11. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.36.*

*In favour*:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland,

Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.36 was adopted by 117 votes to 1, with 48 abstentions.*

13. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and the Republic of Moldova, said that the European Union and the countries which shared its position had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution because economic measures should be compatible with the principles of international law as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, including in the wider sense the principles of the multilateral trading system and the rules of the World Trade Organization. The draft resolution, unfortunately, focused almost exclusively on the adoption of unilateral coercive measures against developing countries; such inadmissible measures should not be taken against any member of the international community.

**Agenda item 52: Sustainable development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.26 and A/C.2/60/L.44)

*Draft resolution on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*

14. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.44, which he was submitting, in his capacity of Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.26. Paragraph 2 should read "*Notes with interest* the establishment of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics as adopted by the World Tourism Organization General Assembly in 2001:". Some minor editing changes would have to be made to paragraph 5.

15. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.44, as orally revised, was adopted.*

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.26 was withdrawn.*

18. *Mr. Koudelka (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.21 and A/C.2/60/L.48)

*Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*

19. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.48, which was being submitted by Mr. Toscano (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.21

20. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to paragraph 7, said that provision had been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for implementing the terms of the resolution. Therefore, should the Committee adopt the draft resolution, there would be no need for additional provisions, as the necessary requirements would be accommodated within the proposed estimates.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.48 was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.21 was withdrawn.*

23. **Mr. Salazar** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, his country had recently activated a number of bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms with small island developing States and participated in multilateral initiatives to address the special needs of the South. It had also provided assistance to small island developing States affected by natural disasters. It had, however, entered reservations to paragraphs 25, 26, and 27 of the Mauritius Strategy, which referred to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and, in particular, the submission of claims regarding the establishment of outer limits.

24. The basis for his country's position was that, not being a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, it was not subject to the provisions of that Convention under international customary law, with the exception of those it had expressly recognized and incorporated into its domestic legislation. In conclusion, he said that the reasons that had prevented his country from acceding to the Convention remained unchanged.

**(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.25, L.27, L.45 and L.46)

*Draft resolution on natural disasters and vulnerability*

25. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.45, submitted by Mr. Toscano (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.27. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

26. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland) said that "*Noting*" should be changed to "*Taking note*" in the fourth preambular paragraph and announced a number of other minor editorial changes involving the placement of commas.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.45, as orally revised, was adopted.*

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.27 was withdrawn.*

*Draft resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*

29. **The Chairman** announced that Sweden had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.46, submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25.

30. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland), introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.46 and read out the following revisions: at the end of the eleventh preambular paragraph, the parenthetical words "("Yokohama Strategy")" should be deleted; at the end of the twelfth preambular paragraph, the phrase "for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action" should be inserted; and in paragraph 8, a comma should be inserted after the word "reduction".

31. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to paragraph 18 requesting the allocation of resources for the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy, said that the secretariat and its activities were financed exclusively from extrabudgetary resources and that therefore the draft resolution would have no financial implications for the regular budget.

32. **Mr. Salazar** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), said that, while his delegation would not oppose consensus on the draft resolution, it wished to point out that the 2005 World Summit Outcome, referred to in the thirteenth preambular paragraph, had in his Government's view the value only of a working paper and therefore did not create any obligation or mandate. His delegation therefore did not endorse the reference to it in that particular paragraph.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.46, as orally revised, was adopted.*

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 53: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and Strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.13 and L.47)

*Draft resolution on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)*

35. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.47 submitted by the Vice-Chairman on the basis of the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.13. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

36. **Mr. Aspelund** (Iceland), speaking as facilitator of the consultations, said that the words "and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation" should be added at the end of paragraph 6.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.47, as orally revised was adopted.*

38. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.13 was withdrawn.*

39. **Mr. Salazar** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, although it had not stood in the way of the consensus, his delegation had the same reservations about the reference to the 2005 World Summit

Outcome, in the fifth preambular paragraph, as it had had in the case of the previous draft resolution adopted.

**Agenda item 56: Eradication of poverty and other development issues** (*continued*)

**(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.37)

*Draft resolution on an International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Peace and Poverty Eradication, 2008*

40. **Ms. Kafanabo** (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking as main sponsor of the draft resolution, said that it had not been possible to reach a consensus on it. Her Government, recognizing the important role of tourism in achieving peace and the reduction of poverty, intended to resubmit a similar draft at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, after addressing the issues that had stood in the way of consensus.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.37 was withdrawn.*

**(c) Human resources development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.49)

*Draft resolution on human resources development*

42. **The Chairman** said that he had received a request to postpone action on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.49 until the next meeting, from a delegation that had wanted it to receive the unedited version at least 24 hours in advance.

43. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, asked which delegation had made that request.

44. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the request had come from the United States delegation.

45. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to postpone consideration of the draft resolution in question until the next meeting.

46. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 57: Operational activities for development** (*continued*)

**(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** (*continued*)

47. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica) said that she was circulating the text of a draft decision on operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The draft had received general support in the course of informal consultations held under Swiss facilitation on a draft decision originally introduced by the Group of 77 and China. She asked that action be taken on the text at the next meeting.

*The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.*